CONNECTICUT RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY

CONNECTICUT'S RECYCLING LEADER

Testimony of the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority
Before the Environment Committee
Re: **Raised Bill No. 1116, AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECYCLING OF ORGANIC MATERIALS BY CERTAIN FOOD WHOLESALERS, MANUFACTURERS, SUPERMARKETS AND CONFERENCE CENTERS.**
March 14, 2011

Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the Environment Committee:

My name is Paul Nonnenmacher, and I am the director of public affairs for the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Raised Bill 5878, An Act Concerning the Recycling of Organic Materials by Certain Food Wholesalers, Manufacturers, Supermarkets and Conference Centers.

CRRA wholeheartedly supports the increasing of composting in Connecticut. Less than one year ago, the Department of Environmental Protection released the findings of a waste characterization study. They sent people wading into piles of garbage on the tip floors at trash-to-energy plants and transfer stations, then sorted, weighed and measured what was in those piles. They found that more than 13 percent of our garbage is food waste – more than 321,000 tons in all.

DEP's Solid Waste Management Plan calls for the state to recycle 58 percent of its solid waste by the year 2024, yet that rate has been languishing under 30 percent for the last 15 years. Raised Bill 1116 will spur the biggest jump in our recycling rate since recycling itself was started 20 years ago. Enacting this bill will mean entrepreneurs who may have been hesitant to invest in developing composting facilities will know they'll have a feed stock. Supermarkets, wholesalers, schools and colleges who may have wanted to compost but had no outlet for their food waste will have them. And Connecticut will strengthen its position as a leader in responsible waste management.

I am also president of the Connecticut Recyclers Coalition, representing corporate, municipal, institutional and private members involved in recycling, and the CRC board adds its enthusiastic support for this bill.

Now I'll be happy to answer any questions you may have.